

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 3 – 24 are currently pending and rejected.

The applicants' attorney amends claims 1, 13 and 15, and cancels claim 21. The applicants' attorney respectfully asserts that claims 1, 3 – 20 and 22 – 24, as amended, are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed below.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3 – 12 and 22

The applicants' claim 1, as amended, recites a housing comprising a passage having first opening, a second opening and a third, wherein at least one of the openings opens to an environment outside the housing without exposing circuitry inside the housing to the outside environment. Support for this can be found in at least FIGS. 2 and 3, and paragraphs 6, 9, 10 and 14 – 16 of the specification.

The applicants' attorney respectfully asserts that claim 1, as amended, is patentable over U.S. Patent 4,758,924 issued to Dillon *et al.* (Dillon) at least because Dillon fails to disclose a passage having a first opening, a second opening and a third opening, wherein at least one of the openings opens to an environment outside the housing without exposing circuitry inside the housing to the outside environment.

Claims 3 – 12 and 22 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies on claim 1, as amended.

Rejection of Claims 13 and 14

Claim 13 is patentable over Dillon at least for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1 over Dillon.

Claim 14 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 13, as amended.

Rejection of Claim 15

Claim 15 is patentable over Dillon at least for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1 over Dillon.

Rejection of Claims 16 – 20, 23 and 24

The applicants' claim 16 recites:

A method for coupling **an external device** to an interface mounted to a housing of an electronic system, the housing defining a passage, the method comprising:

connecting a communication medium to the interface;

inserting the communication medium through the passage via first and second passage openings, the first opening being adjacent to the interface and the second opening being adjacent to the external device; and

connecting the communication medium to the external device. (emphasis added).

The applicants' attorney respectfully asserts that claim 16 is patentable over Dillon at least because, unlike the applicants' claimed method, Dillon's cables 36 and 37 are not connected to a device that is external to the housings 10, 11 and 11A.

Claims 17 – 20, 23 and 24 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies from claim 16.

Conclusion

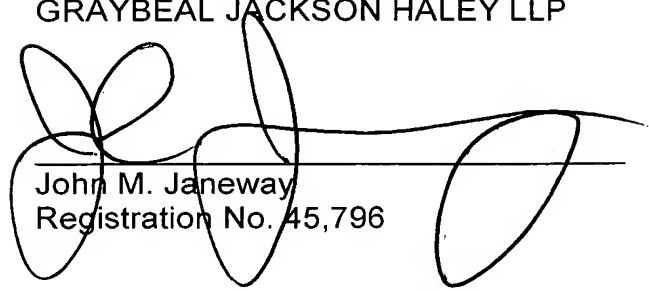
The applicants' attorney respectfully requests the examiner withdraw the rejection against claims 1, 3 – 20 and 22 – 24, as amended, and issue an allowance for these claims.

If, after considering this response, the examiner believes the claims should not be allowed, the applicants' attorney respectfully requests that before issuing an Office Action, the examiner call Mr. Janeway (425-455- 5575) to schedule a telephone conference to further the prosecution of the claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge, at any time during the pendency of this application, any required fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.25.

Dated this 22nd day of May 2006.

Respectfully submitted,
GRAYBEAL JACKSON HALEY LLP



John M. Janeway
Registration No. 45,796

Correspondence to:
Hewlett-Packard Company
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400
Phone: (970) 898-3884